

Message Text

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43

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05

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R 241815Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0022

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 1239

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, AR

SUBJECT: SITUATION IN SANTA FE PROVINCE

REF BA 548

1. IT WOULD NOT BE SURPRISING TO SEE GOA ORDER ARMY INTO ACTION IN SANTA FE PROVINCE AS WELL AS TUCUMAN. SPEAKING IN LATTER PROVINCE ON FEB 21, SOCIAL WELFARE MINISTER LOPEZ REGA SAID GOA WOULD ORDER ARMED FORCES INTO ANY PROVINCE THREATENED BY GUERRILLAS. AND SANTA FE GOVERNOR SYLVESTRE BEGNIS, IN MESSAGE TO PEOPLE ON SAME DAY, IN EFFECT SAID HIS PROVINCE WAS SO THREATENED.

2. CLEARLY, RECENT WAVE OF ASSASSINATIONS IN SANTA FE, WITH TWO PROMINENT LABOR LEADERS AMONG VICTIMS, HAS FURTHER COMPLICATED EGNIS' ALREADY DIFFICULT SITUATION (SEE REFTEL). PERONIST LABOR WING, EGGED ON BY VICE GOVERNOR CUELLO, HAS STEPPED UP CLAMOR FOR BEGNIS' REMOVAL AND FEDERAL INTERVENTION OF PROVINCE. NATIONAL UOM LEADER LORENZO MIGUEL LEVELED SCATHING CRITICISM AT BEGNIS AT FUNERAL OF MURDERED UION OFFICIAL TEODORO PONCE, SAYING THAT THERE WAS NOT EVEN MINIMUM SECURITY IN SANTA FE, AND THAT BEGNIS DID NOT HAVE BASIC DECENCY TO COME TO FUNERAL OR SEND REPRESENTATIVE.

3. EMBASSY PERONIST SOURCES INDICATE INTERIOR MINISTER ROCAMORA IS EXTREMELY RELUCTANT TO INTERVENE SANTA FE. REACTION OF UCR
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AND FEDERALIST PROVINCIAL PARTIES, AS HE WELL KNOWS, WOULD BE

ESPECIALLY DAMAGING JUST PRIOR TO ELECTIONS FOR GOVERNOR AND
FICE GOVERNOR COMING UP IN MISIONES. SENDING IN TROOPS AGAINST
GUERRILLAS, HOWEVER, WOULD NOT HAVE SAME REPERCUSSIONS AND HENCE
REMAINS A MORE LIKELY OPTION.
HILL

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